The invention bases itself on a method for the operation of an automatic transmission in a motor vehicle wherein, while a compression operational phase is carried out until the reaching of a predetermined threshold speed, whereupon the phase is ended by closing the clutch. At speeds less than this threshold speed, however, an exclusion is placed on downshifting carried out with an open clutch so that the driving speed is established and/or that gear stage is engaged, which is in accordance with the driving conditions at that particular time. Continuous travel with a positive driving torque can be achieved in the shortest possible time. The open clutch, related to the downshifting in speeds less than the predetermined threshold speed, additionally, assures no brake torque will be generated by the drive (engine) motor in spite of engaged low transmission gear

stages which is, for example, an internal combustion machine.

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